

Early American Ironwork



Wallace Nutting

AVERY LIBRARY
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

March 1, 1923.

WROUGHT IRON * PRICE LIST.

The following list shows the actual number of each piece of hand made wrought iron that we have on hand at the present time. The prices are net, f.o.b. Ashland, Mass, All orders sent to us are subject to stock on hand.

We also have in our black smith shop at Ashland, a larger quantity of partially furnished pieces. If you are interested in anything shown in this catalog, we will be glad to tell you more about it.

11 pr.	1-404 @ \$	7.00	1	1-147 @ \$	10.00	
4	1-406 "	12.50	8	1-135 "	14.00	
1	1-401 "	11.00	3	1-132 "	12.00	
3	1-403 "	9.50	1	1-145 "	8.50	
7	1-407 "	10.00	1	1-146 "	8.00	
2	1-409 "	10.00	5	1-120 "	24.00	
3	1-402 "	9.50	1	1-150 "	5.00	
1	1-180 "	9.50	1	1-303 "	16.00	
2	1-182 "	4.50	3	1-305 "	12.00	
1	1-12 "	4.25	1	1-306 "	7.00	
5	1-41 "	4.50	1	1-308 "	8.00	
1	1-43 "	4.00	1	1-307 "	7.00	
18	1-35 "	3.50	2	1-302 "	7.00	
1	1-87 "	9.00	4	1-251 "	15.00	
6	1-457 "	6.00	1	1-255 "	17.00	
1	1-450 "	6.00	1	1-256 "	6.50	
4	1-474 "	3.50	1	1-258 "	8.50	
1	1-478 "	14.00	1	1-250 "	12.00	
2	1-451 "	2.50	2	1-213 "	4.50	
1	1-452 "	2.50	33	1-212 "	4.50	
2	1-454 "	4.00	11	1-245 "	3.50	
1	1-455 "	4.50	2	1-246 "	4.50	
1	1-456 "	6.00	5	1-247 "	4.50	
2	1-114 "	22.50	14	1-52 "	2.25	pr.
1	1-106 "	30.00	8 4"	1-11 "	2.25	
12	1-113 "	12.50	1	1-13 "	2.75	
2	1-100 "	22.50	1	1-3 "	3.50	
2	1-103 "	22.50	11 9"	1-2 "	4.00	
2	1-102 "	21.00	11 14"	1-2 "	4.50	
2	1-121 "	21.00	25	1-1 "	2.00	
4	shovels "	4.00	6	1-21 "	3.25	
1	1-101 "	24.00	49	1-82 "	4.00	
5	1-104 "	24.00	79	1-38 "	7.00	
2	1-136 "	18.00	1	1-32 "	2.75	
2	1-134 "	8.50	7	1-73 "	10.50	
6	1-148 "	10.00	3	1-71 "	34.50	
2	1-149 "	12.00	2	1-352 "	4.00	
2	1-162 "	20.00	2	1-304 "	3.00	
1	1-161 "	15.00	68	1-391 "	2.20	
1	1-163 "	9.00	72	1-390 "	2.70	pr



THE IRON WORKS HOUSE, SAUGUS

Early American Ironwork

ELABORATE ironwork has been set forth in more than one publication, but hitherto no attempt has been made to show the simple ironwork of the colonial days in America.

The "Iron Works House" shown above was the residence of the first successful iron master in America.

Joseph Jenks was a great figure in his day, and has profoundly affected the growth of our country. Perhaps more than any other early American he made America possible; for he invented the long seythe, which made it possible for one man to mow as many blades of grass as three mowed before.

The bush seythe as we know it was the English implement. It could not be made longer without becoming unwieldy. Joseph Jenks first got the idea of turning up the back of the blade. He invented the angle iron. He made a long seythe which weighed no more than the old short one. This invention spread from the house, his home, across America, and before the mowing machine this seythe enabled the farmer to subdue the earth so that the whole land was overspread.

Joseph Jenks was as picturesque and interesting as he was inventive. He made here the die for the pine-tree shilling, our first coin, and he also stamped by his sturdy spirit of liberty the impress of freedom on the new country. This smith, "a mighty man was he." He was not afraid to say that the head of Charles II ought to follow that of his father, though he went to prison for it. His wife, read out in church for wearing lace on her bonnet, kept this house for him, the seat of the ironworks, with its big rooms, its "largest American brick chimney," and its rare side overhang — one of the best of the earliest houses in America.



THE HEARTH IN THE FIRE ROOM, IRON WORKS HOUSE

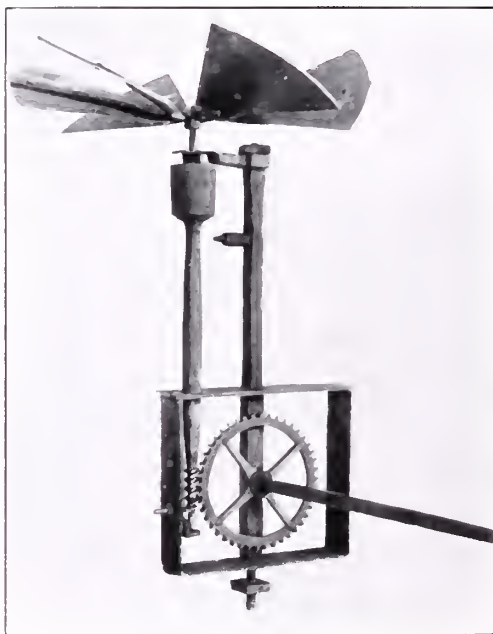
Fireplace Furniture

THERE is shown above the wonderful old fire room and fireplace in the Iron Works House. It is about ten feet across. On the opposite side of the chimney there is another fireplace about the same size. In the same side of the same chimney in the lean-to is another fireplace, so that the chimney on the ground floor has the dimensions of about 11 x 18 feet and the question of the fireplace furniture becomes an important one.

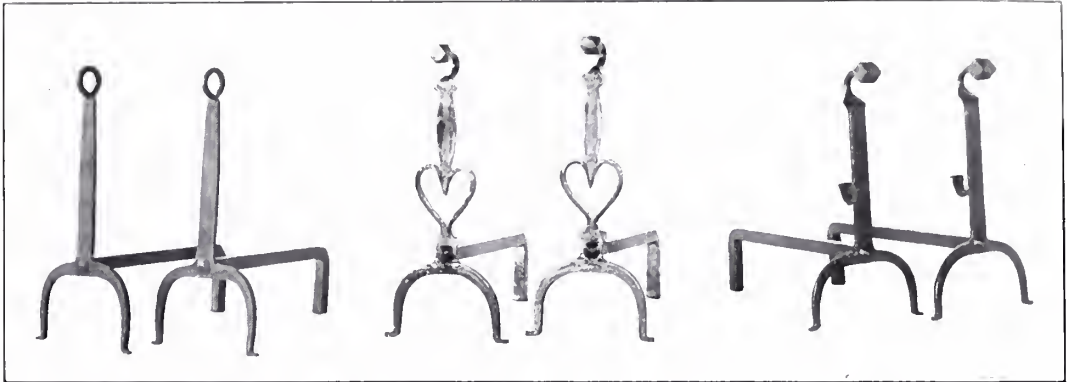
The clock-work jack, shown in position above, turned the rod below which rested on the large andiron. This method antedated many years the tin oven, which didn't come in until around 1790 and was a declension from the earlier, stronger style.

The small andirons in the rear, holding up the back logs, were called firedogs. They were for use, while the larger andirons were for ornament, as was also the spit rod. The meat of Queen Victoria was cooked on an arrangement like this during all her life.

The smoke-jack shown opposite is in the chimney of the Wentworth-Gardner House, and it was revolved by the smoke draft. If this is not unique, it is the only one the writer has seen. He has heard of one or two but is unable to verify the report.



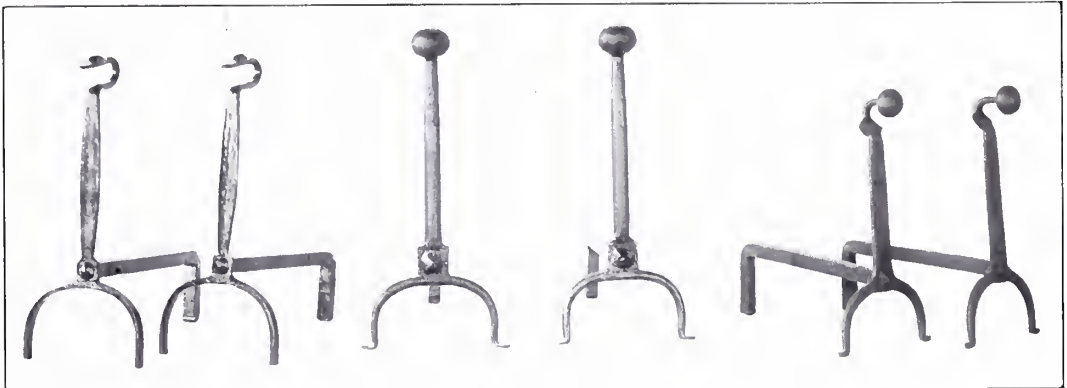
I-476



I-404
RING TOP

I-406
HEART AND OCTAGON

I-401
CROOKED OCTAGON



I-403
GOOSE NECK

I-407
VERTICAL BALL

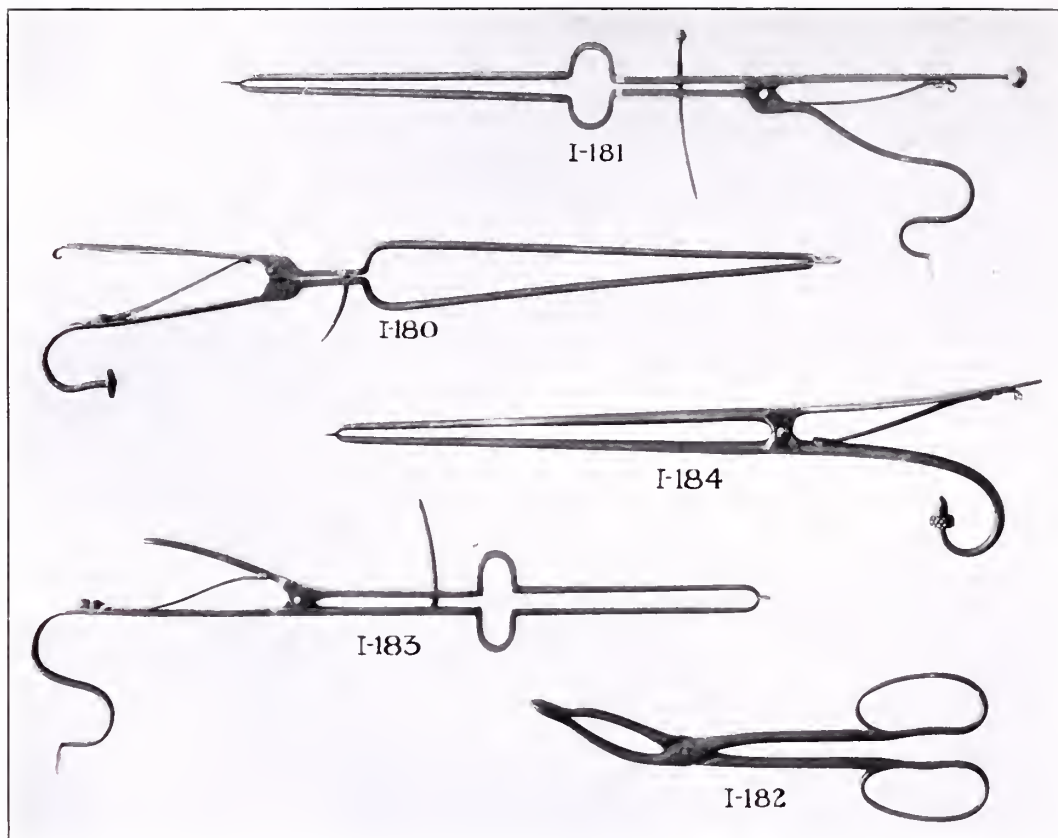
I-409
FLAT BALL



I-408
BENT-NECK BALL

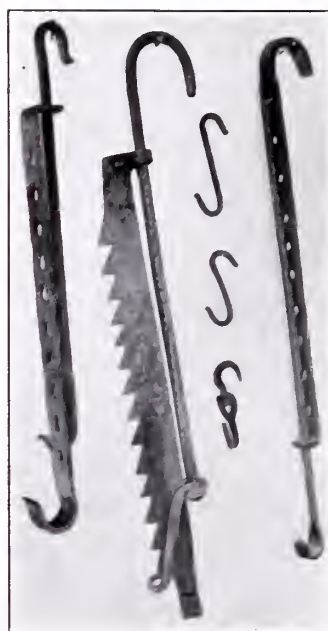
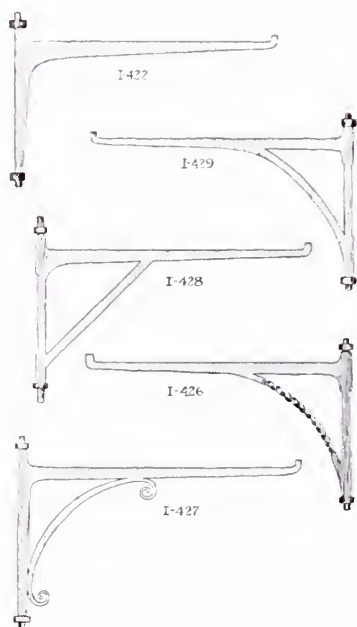
I-402
SCROLL

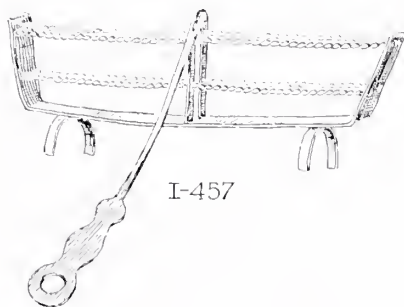
I-400
COLONIAL CURL



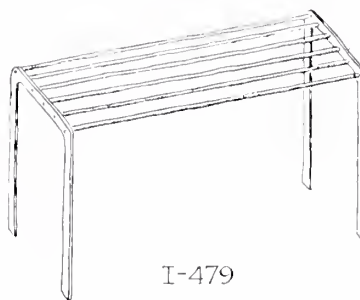
WONDERFUL OLD PIPE TONGS

THREE of these styles are of a character so fine that only very skilled smiths can make them. They have a finger to press down the tobacco in the bowl.

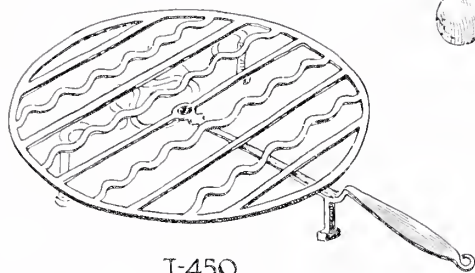




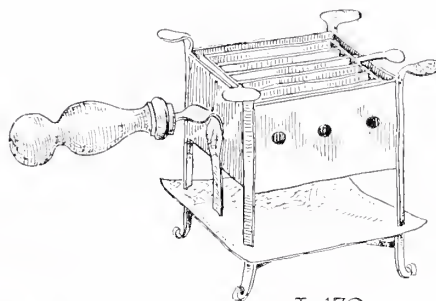
I-457



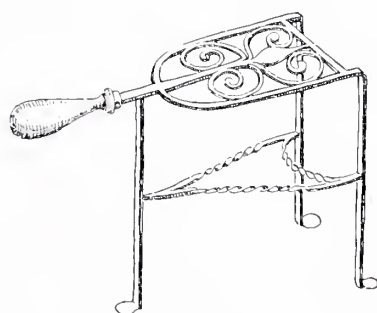
I-479



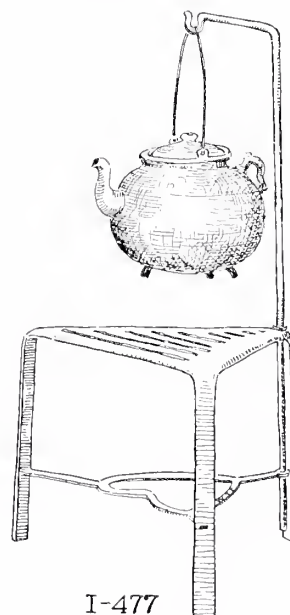
I-450



I-470

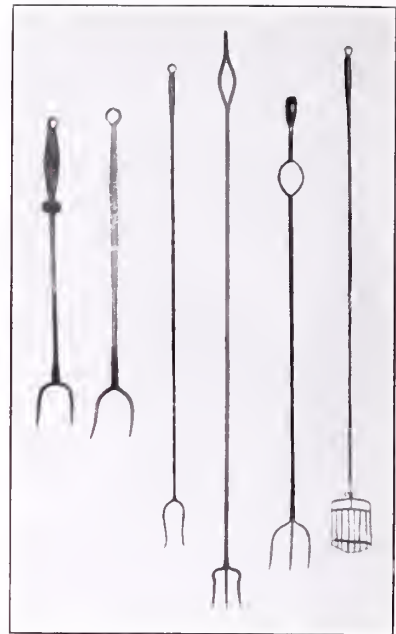
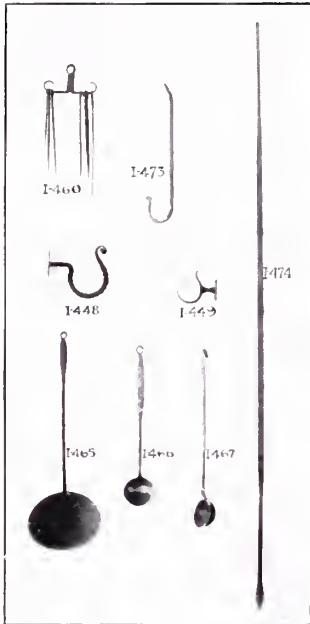


I-478

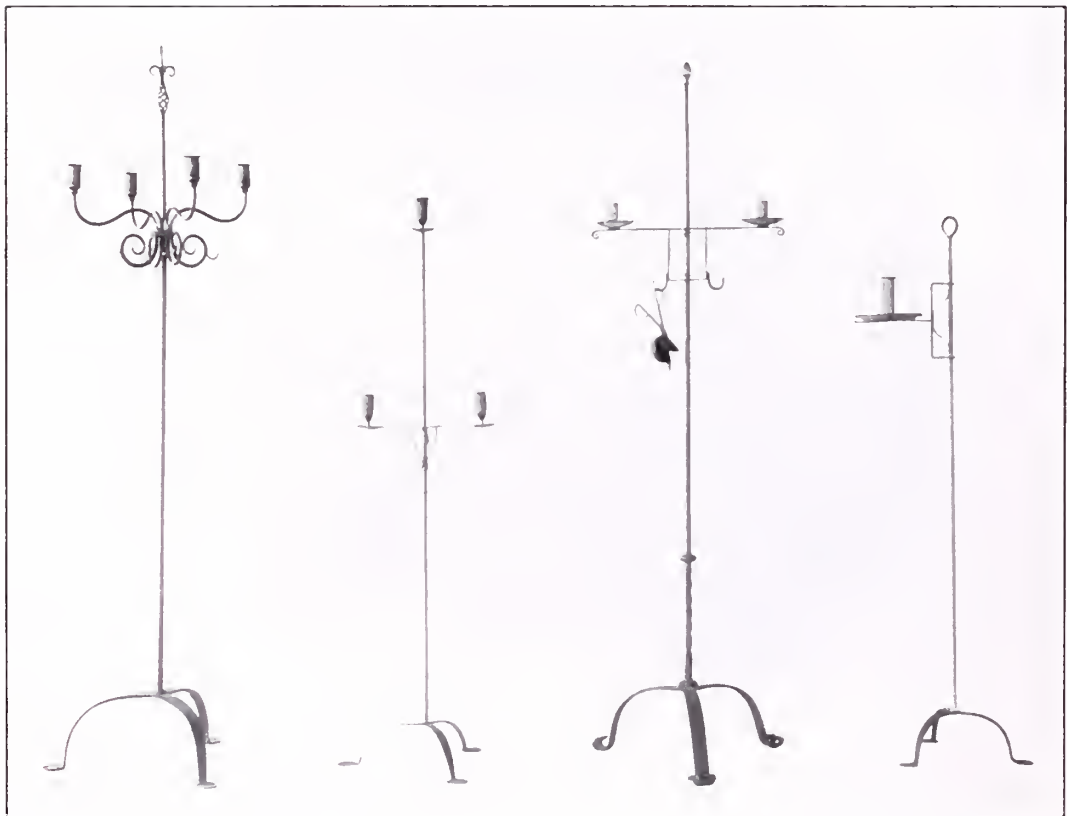


I-477

THE pieces shown above are quaint fireplace furniture. As a rule there are plenty somewhat like I-457 that are picked up in the antique. Of the design I-470 a number of examples have been found. The top lifts up. The two designs at the bottom of the page are probably of English origin. I-477 is a combination of a small crane with a trivet. The crane may be removed.



I-451 I-453 I-455
I-452 I-454 I-456



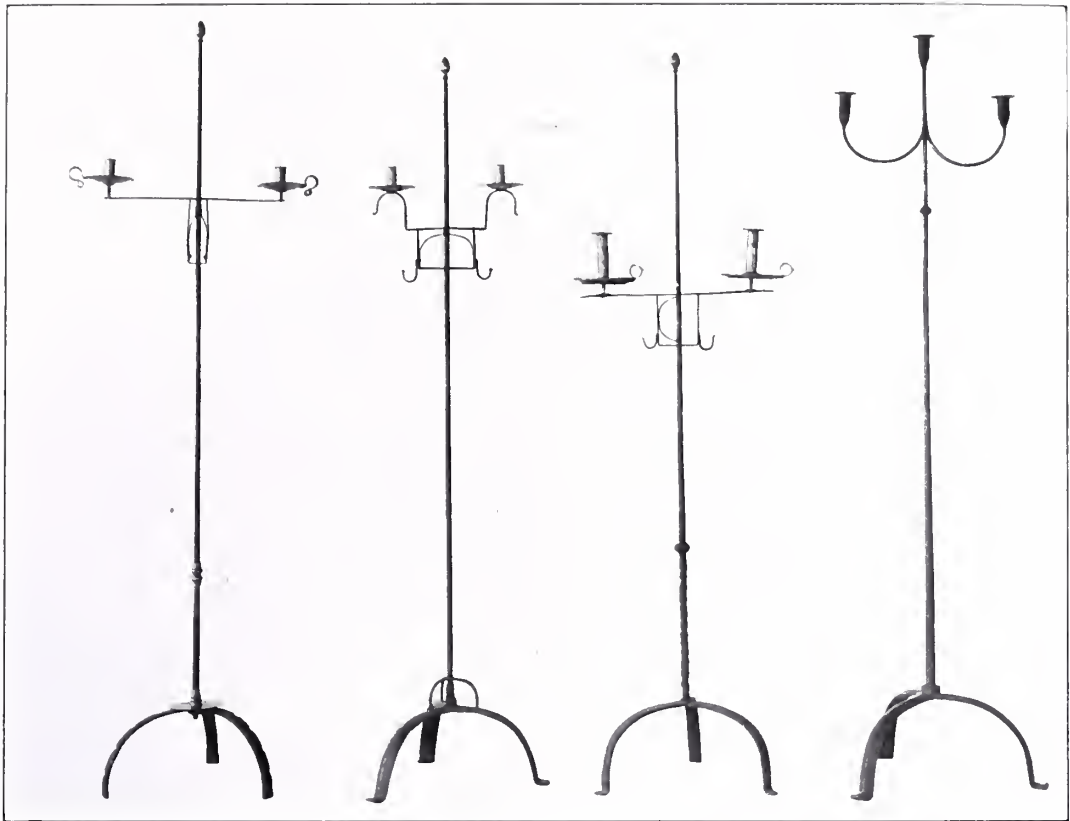
I-106

I-112

I-114

I-113

For descriptions of above see page 20.



I-100

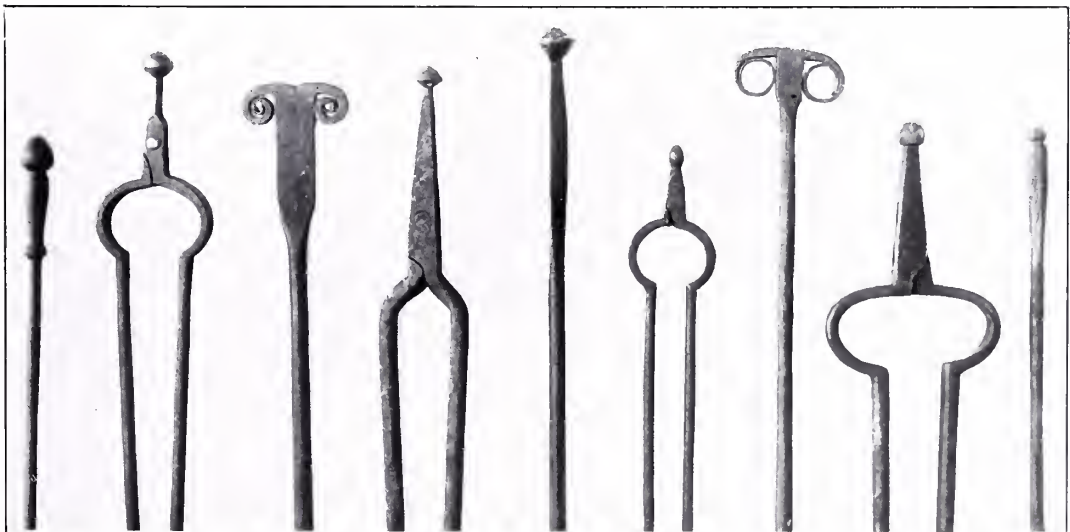
I-103

I-102

I-121

THE four tall candlestands shown above and eight others shown on other pages were to stand on the floor. Mr. Nutting has a large collection of wonderful originals from which these are copied, or in some cases these are the photographs of the originals. The solidest type is No. I-103, as it has small arches at the base. No. I-104 is called the Knickerbocker design, as it is a copy of the one owned by the City of New York in the old City Hall.

At the bottom of the page appear heads of shovels and tongs.



I-442

I-436

I-438

I-441

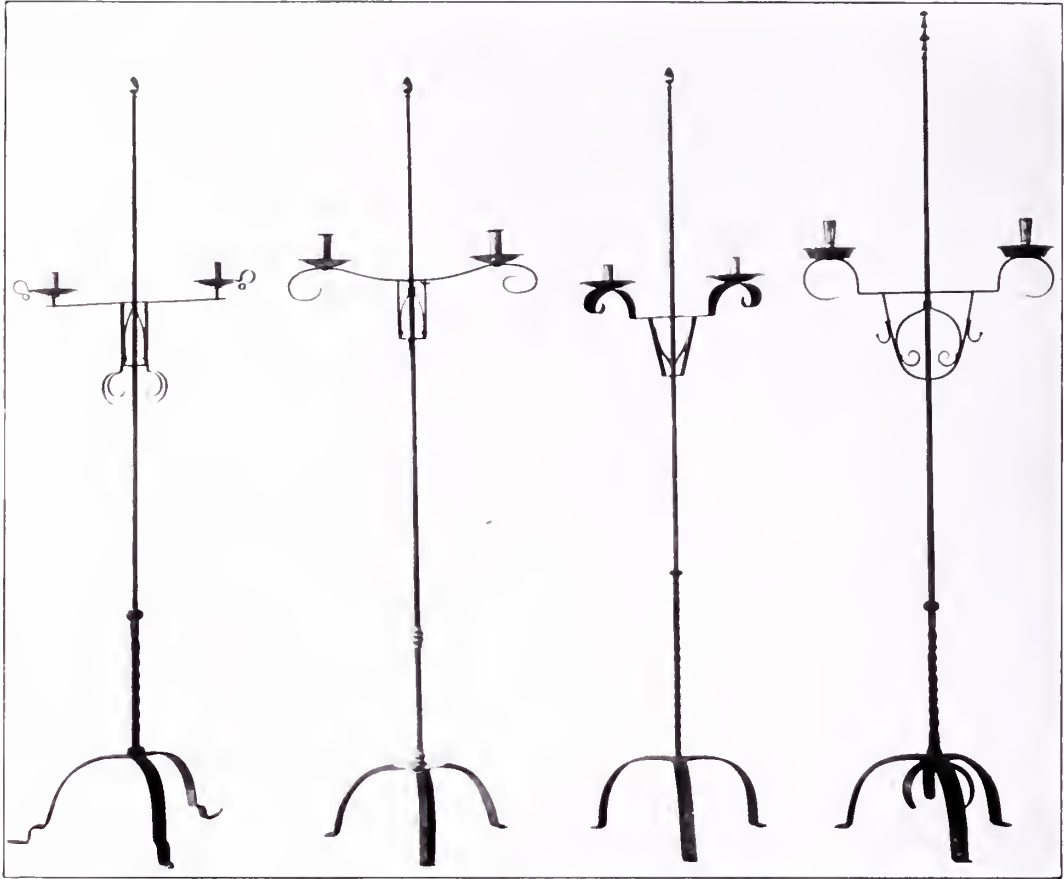
I-434

I-440

I-437

I-435

I-439



I-101

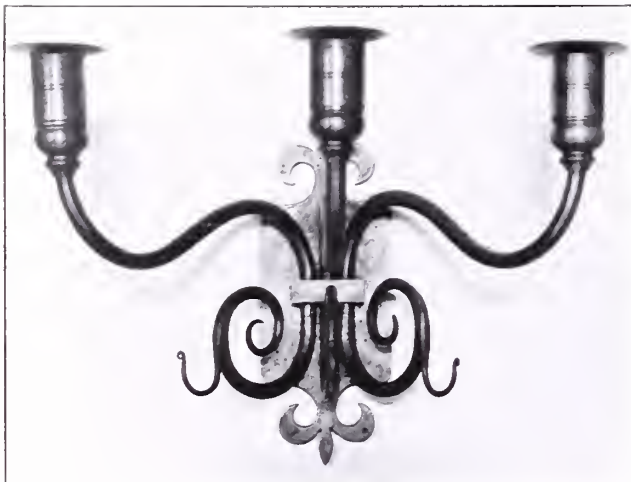
I-122

I-110

I-104

Wall Sconces

WALL sconces are among the rarest of American objects of house hardware. In some cases we have not been able to find anything at all satisfactory. We do, however, show a design below which appears both with one, two, and three candleholders. The pigtail ornaments are very quaint and they serve, incidentally, as receptacles for snuffers or any light article of that kind. For the most part in the ancient day wall sconces were not in use, for the reason that the light was dim enough at the best and it was important to bring it as close to the sitter as possible. For that reason chairs are found with sockets for the attachment of sconces and one such is in the Iron Works House. In other instances candlestands were held in the hand by the reader, but the abundance of very small light stands indicates that such stands were moved about to bring them very near the chair where the reader sat.



I-136. THREE-LIGHT SCONCE

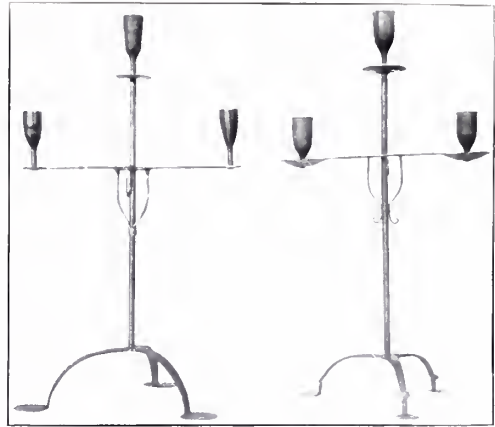
A quaint light which is shown in many of Mr. Nutting's pictures is called the "Betty lamp," made sometimes of cast iron and sometimes of tin. It was in the sauce-boat shape and remained in use in the South until a late period, although it is practically like the lamps of classical Greek and even earlier origin.



I-151

I-134

The swing (over all) of the torch or lantern holder above is 22 inches ; the height (over all) is 25 inches

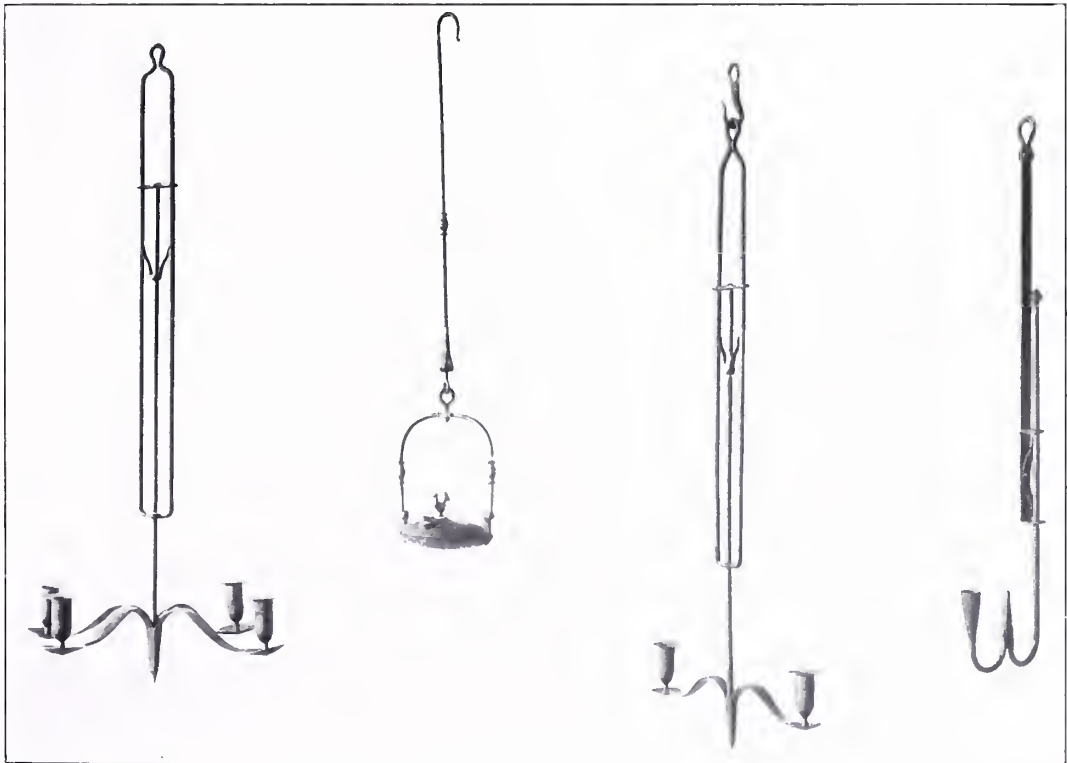


I-148

I-149

ABOVE is shown on the left, first a large wall lantern holder which is hinged to swing where wanted. Below is a single wall sconce. The pieces on the right are table candlestands of about a foot and a half in height. The cross-bar is adjustable for height, moving up and down on the standard. These are very interesting and unusual pieces.

At the bottom of the page appear some very rare and interesting chandeliers or loom lights.



I-162

I-164

I-161

I-163



IN BRASS, I-144, IN IRON, I-143
TOTAL HEIGHT, 20 INCHES

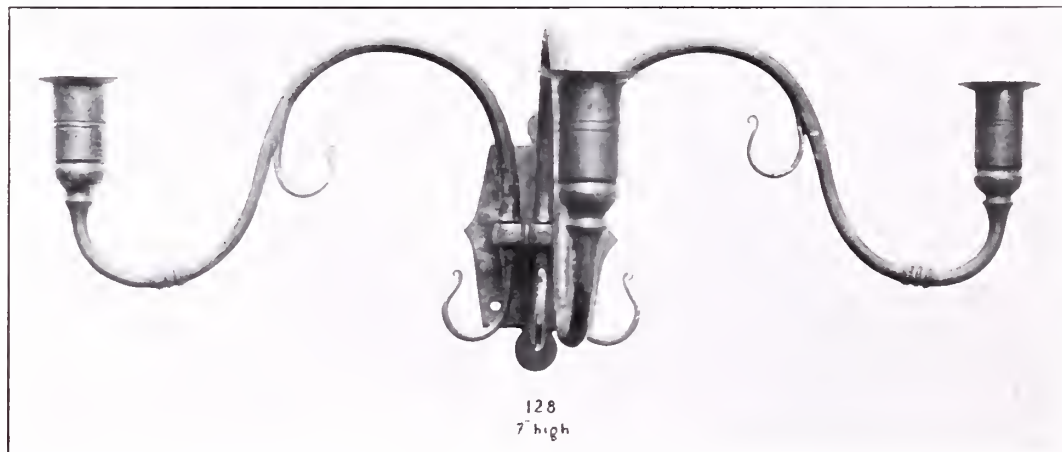


I-147

Table Lights

ON the left above is shown a table light in tin with painted enamel finish. The candle-bar may be raised or lowered, as can also the shades over the candles. A piece is provided with an extension and the base is slightly weighted. The standard is made of square iron, and is finished by a brass handle with a milled edge where it connects with the standard. This piece is very handsome also in brass.

It is probable that in the earliest homes the lights were only pine knots. The historic instance of the revered President Lincoln is within the memory of some now living. He used such lights. The next thing following was the rush light, shown elsewhere, and then the common candle, not moulded but dipped. Our ancestors also used bayberries, from which they extracted wax. Such candles are still made, to supply the taste of those who have a love for the antique.



128
7" high



I-135



I-132
I-125. SNUFFERS

Movable Candlesticks

ON the bottom of the page to the right is an extremely quaint old design for a candleholder, copied from the original in the Metropolitan Museum. It is perhaps of foreign derivation. The pan and candleholders attached move up and down on the standard. The pan is daintily shaped, being ten-sided, with each sector slightly concaved. The legs and the brackets are nicely twisted and a quaint scroll serves as a spring to keep the movable candleholders in place. The design of the pan was doubtless to catch the drip of the candle. At the top there is a hook by which the piece could be lifted and carried about, as also in I-146. I-145 has a handle below the candleholder and the standard has a turned knob.

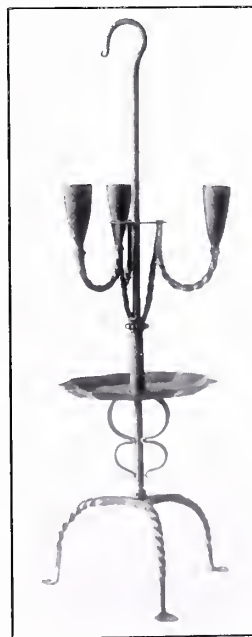
At the top of the page on the right is shown I-132, which is a very quaint and curious pair of snuffers with the interesting colonial curl of the handles. These are found in two sizes. The point of the snuffers was to pick out the wick and increase the quantity of the light.

On page 12 at the bottom are seen three varieties of rush-light holders. The two on the left show a place for a candle also. The candle was used in honor of guests, and the weight of the socket served to close the nippers which ordinarily were used to close down on the rush light held in them.

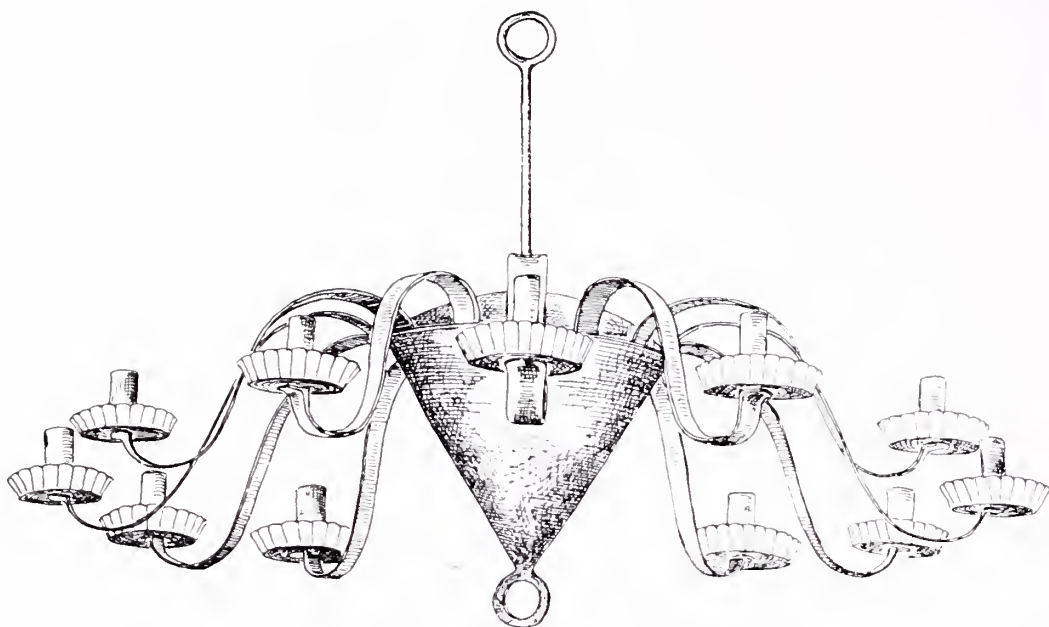


I-145

I-146

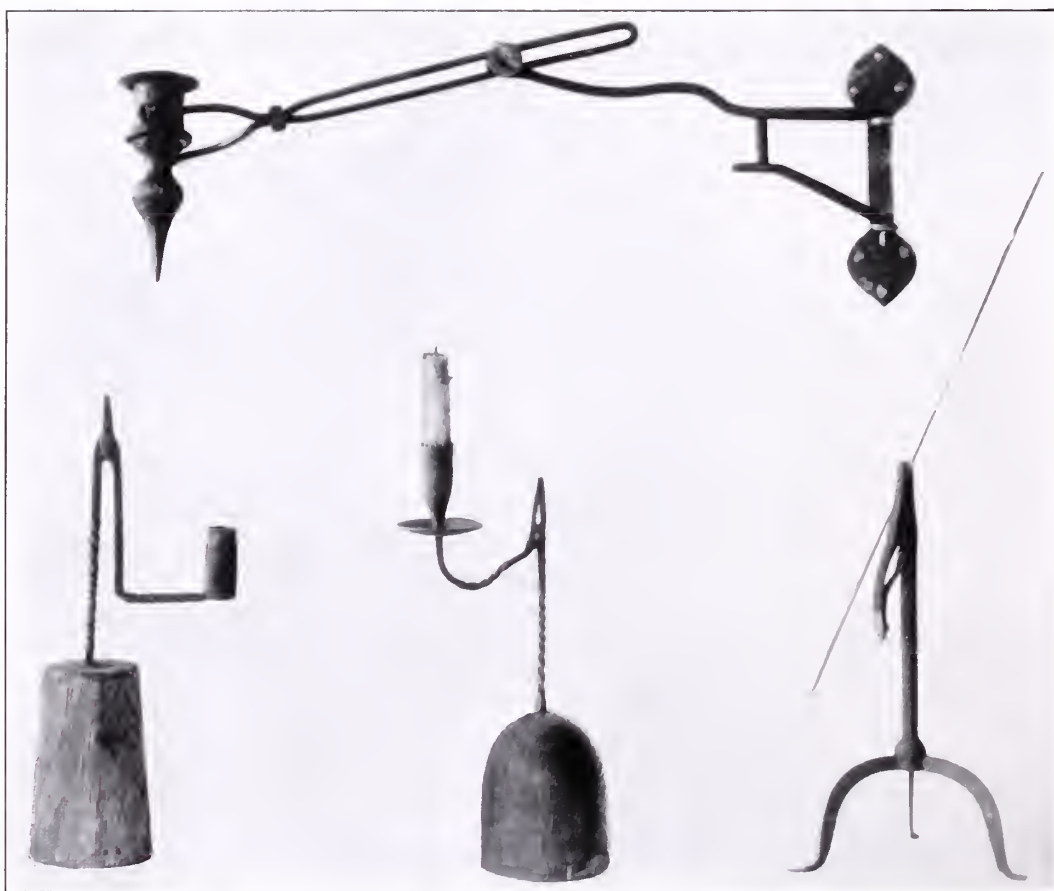


I-120
I-119. TALL FOR FLOOR



I-130. TWELVE-LIGHT CHANDELIER. IRON AND TIN.

A less number of lights may be provided, but less than eight would not be satisfactory in style.

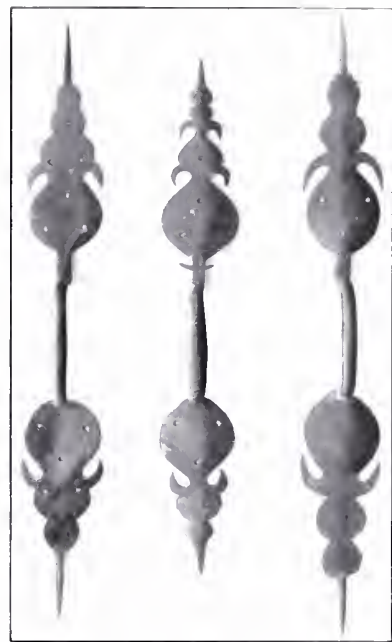
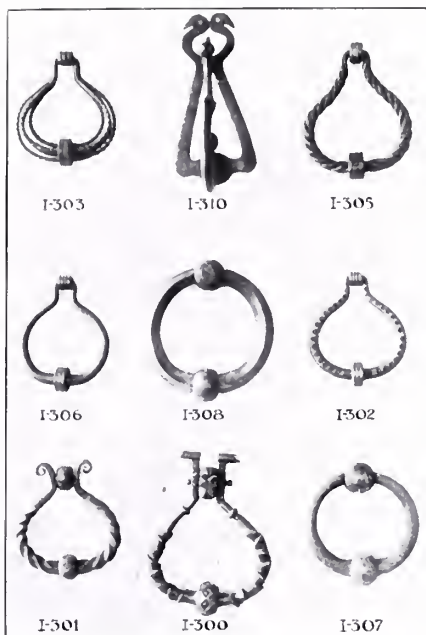


I-141

I-152

I-150

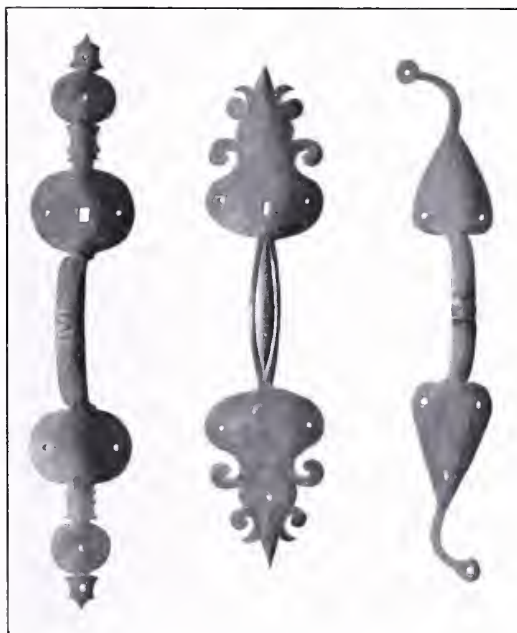
THE ADJUSTABLE SCIONCE AT THE TOP IS NO. I-140



I-251 26 in. I-252 22½ in. I-253 27 in.

ABOVE are shown nine designs of quaint knockers; I-300 is the most elaborate. These varieties in dimensions are from about four to six inches. They are all made either plain, as shown, or attach through the post on the other side of the door with a combination latch.

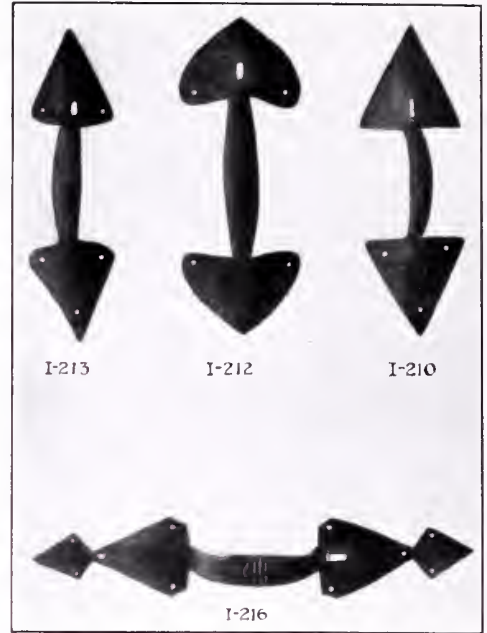
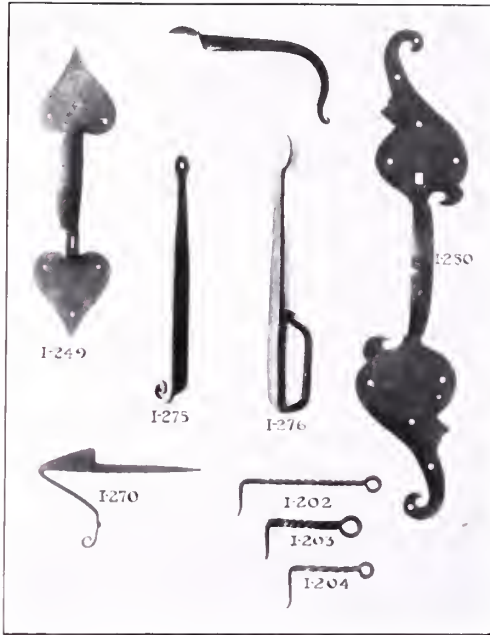
The latches shown on this page are all designed for outside doors and some are very large and handsome.



I-254 19¼ in. I-255 17 in. I-256 16½ in.



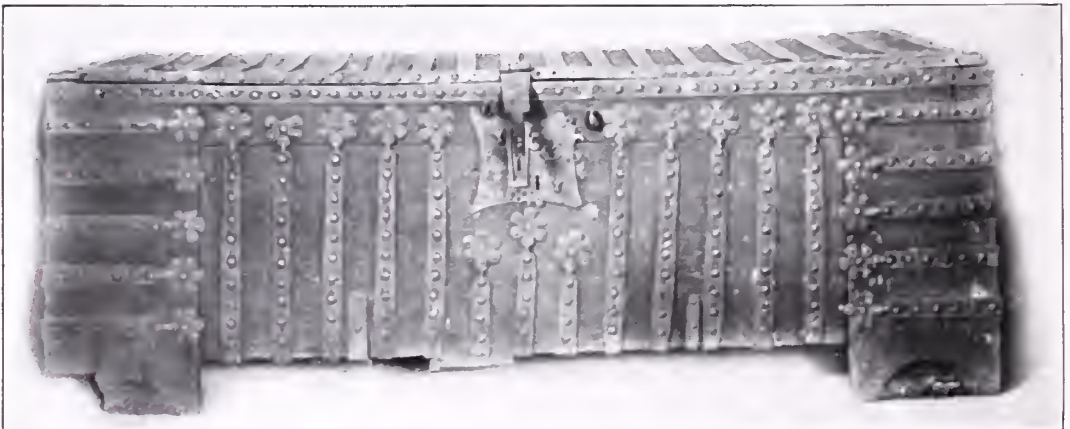
I-214 I-258 I-257

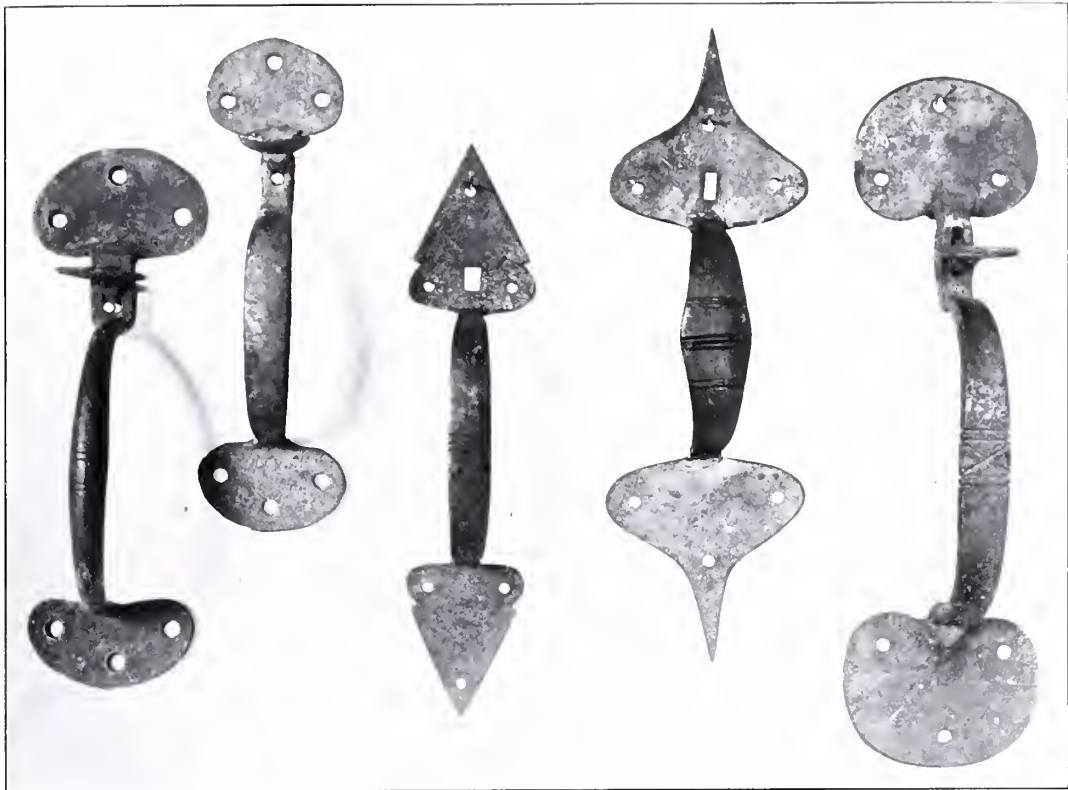


ABOVE are shown several quaint designs of latches. The heart design at the top on the left is good, and also the so-called rounded triangle at the right; in the center of the top, various sizes of catches, otherwise called strikers for the latches, are provided so as to match the size of the latch itself. As a rule we make our strikers with a scroll and brace at the bottom, as shown above. The latch bars themselves are of various sizes and designs; two are here shown. We also make a design with a small pin or post by which the latch is lifted, and if any special design is required it can be supplied on request. The large scroll latch is an outside piece found on an old church.

Grills and Stair-Rails

WE do not show any designs of these, as we specialize more on the house hardware. Such grill designs appear already in other publications in an extensive showing. In an order for the entire hardware for a house we should be willing to consider a minor order for completeness' sake.





I-244

I-245

I-246

I-247

I-248

WE consider the design above, I-247, the most desirable of all our latches, as it is quaint and at the same time reasonable in cost. Below is shown a remarkable large brass box-lock. This is attached to the door by a plate on which it is slid with wrought hooks to attach it so that no screw appears except one at each end of the edge of the main lock and the striker. The special merit is that it has a moulded edge, which is very unusual. Please notice these locks are not made rights and lefts, but as in the old style one lock does for both, the key in one case being put in reversed. A plain oval brass escutcheon is provided for the outside.



I-220. LARGE BRASS BOX-LOCK, MOULDED

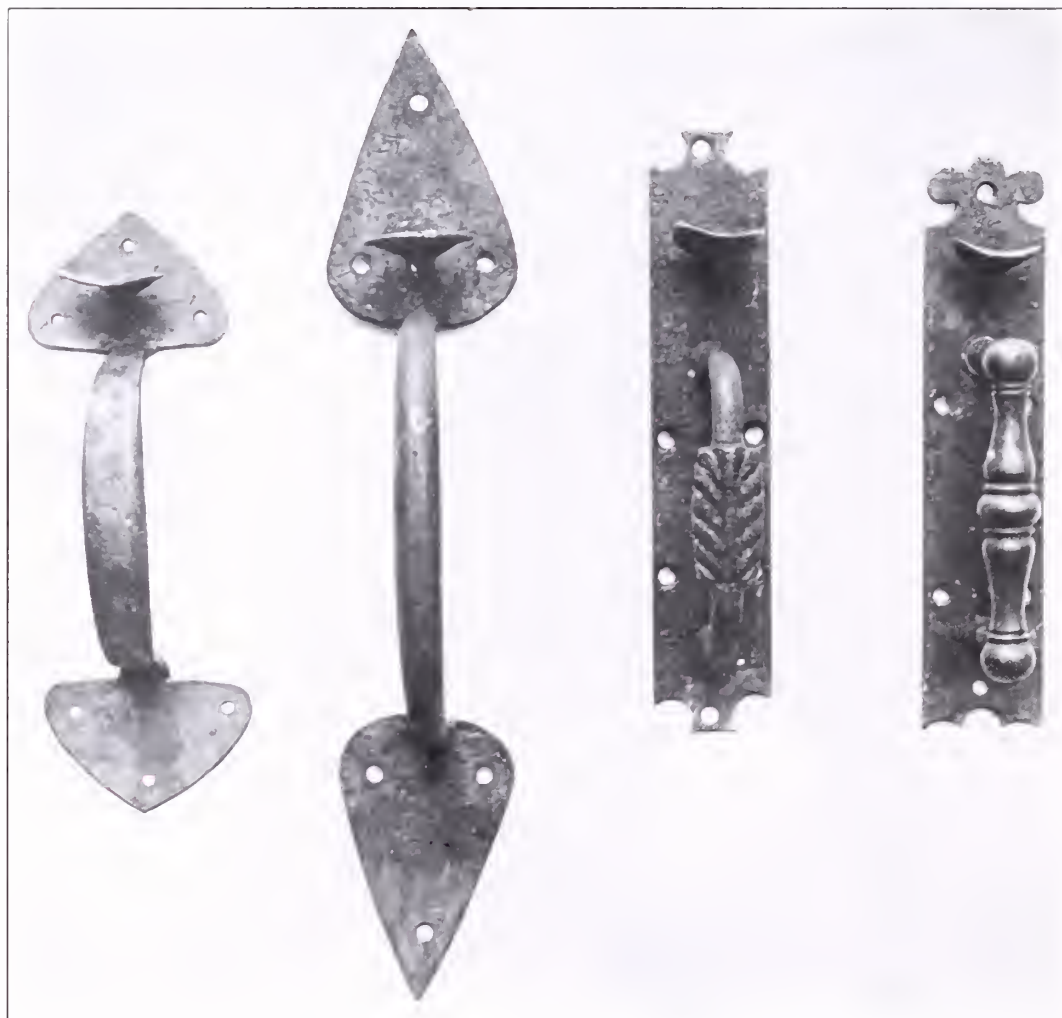


OBVERSE AND REVERSE OF THE PINE-TREE SHILLING

Pine-Tree Shilling

IT was counted a great event in America for the Colonies when this coin was struck and we feel we are honored by the connection of our old house with this event. There is a bronze tablet on the side of the shop here commemorating the fact. Joseph Jenks also made here the first fire engine for the City of Boston, and his descendants are still engaged in the iron business in the adjoining state. It is an interesting incidence of persistence of one branch of craftsmanship.

The latches below on the right are not recommended by us, as they are purely eighteenth-century productions. Nevertheless, some architects favor them. An interesting point about these is that the extreme right-hand piece seems to have been cut out from the plate so that the ornamentation on the bottom is a reverse of that at the top. Thus one cutting on the flat bar answered for two ends.

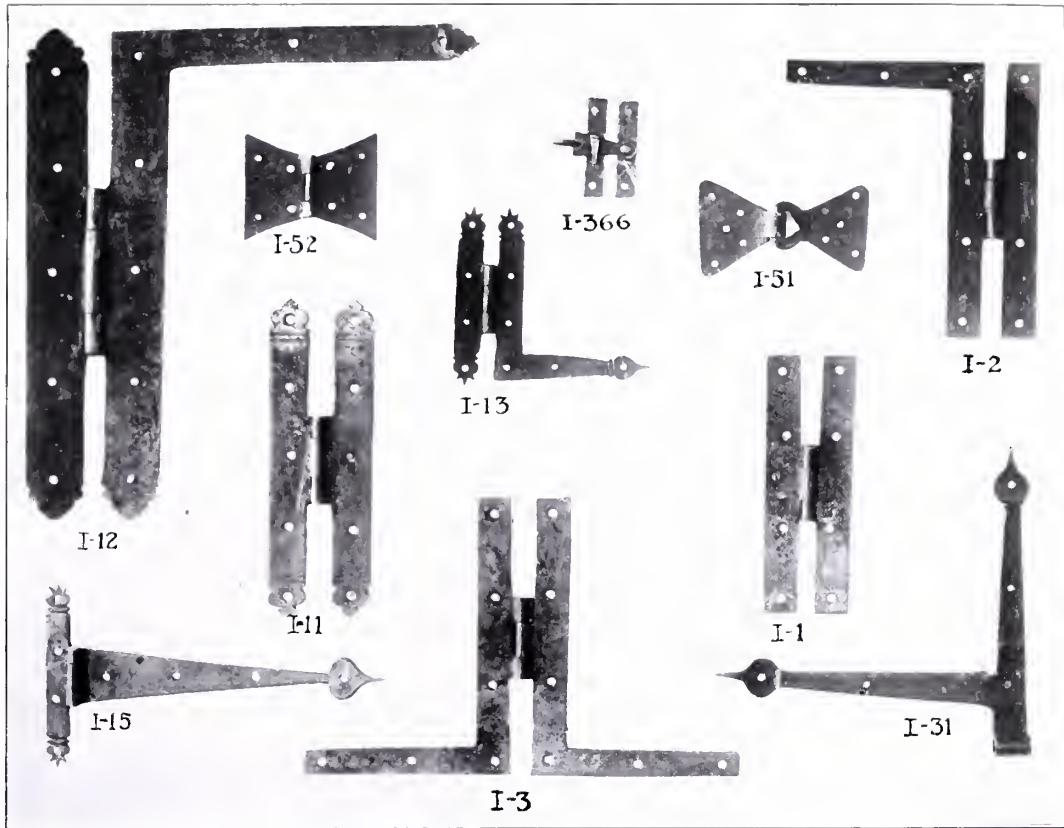


I-215
7½ inch

I-259
12 inch

I-218
7½ inch

I-217
7¼ inch

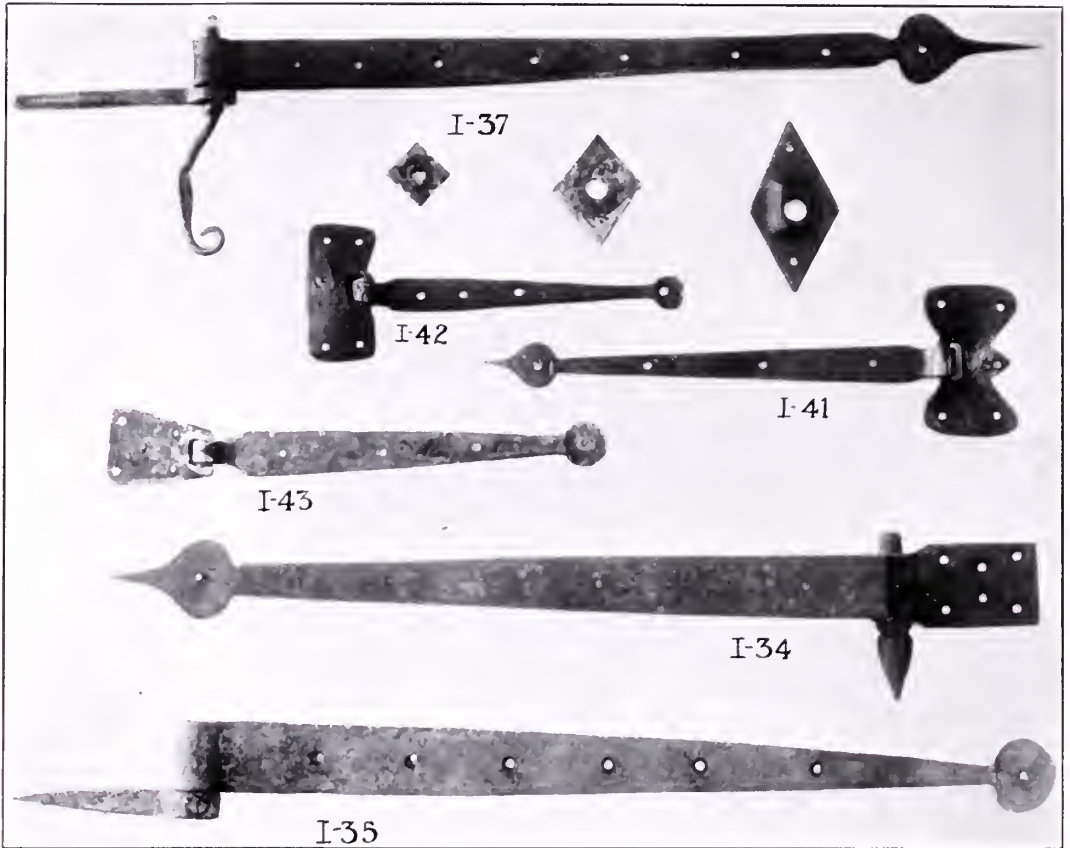


Eighteenth-Century Hinges

ABOVE is shown a considerable variety of the H, HL, and HLL hinge which was ordinarily in use on good houses during the eighteenth century. These are all shown, both with scroll ends and plain, except I-3, which may also be supplied with scrolls. These are generally made in two sizes, about 7 inches and about 10 inches. Ten inches is none too large for an average door. If it is desired to attach a door with special security, a plain H hinge may be used in the center; thus the door would be equipped with three hinges and provided against any springing at the center. The butterfly hinges shown, I-51 and I-52, show the earlier and later type. They were commonly used on tip tables and on small cupboards. The hammered hinge, I-31, was in very common use on the doors, sheds, and barns, and in kitchens and even on cupboards on the main part of the house. It is, of course, used with a gudgeon. The numbers I-13 and I-15 are especially attached for cupboards, being usually of a small design, but I-15 can of course be made large enough for an ordinary house door. No. I-366 is designed as a fastener for the cupboard door, having a drop latch, converting it into an H and matching nicely the H hinges.

It was the custom on simple houses to leave all these hinges black. In the better houses, however, and the parlors particularly, they were painted over white. In our modern reconstruction of old types it has generally been felt desirable to let the hinge speak boldly for itself and so is painted black. The plain H hinge was often covered as to half of its surface by the finish of the door and then appears as an I hinge. The writer, however, has never seen an I hinge and doubts if they were ever made.

In attaching these hinges the nails should be of the right length to pass through and clinch. By careful work this clinching can be done to be wholly unobtrusive. It is not feasible to make secure attachment in soft wood without clinching.



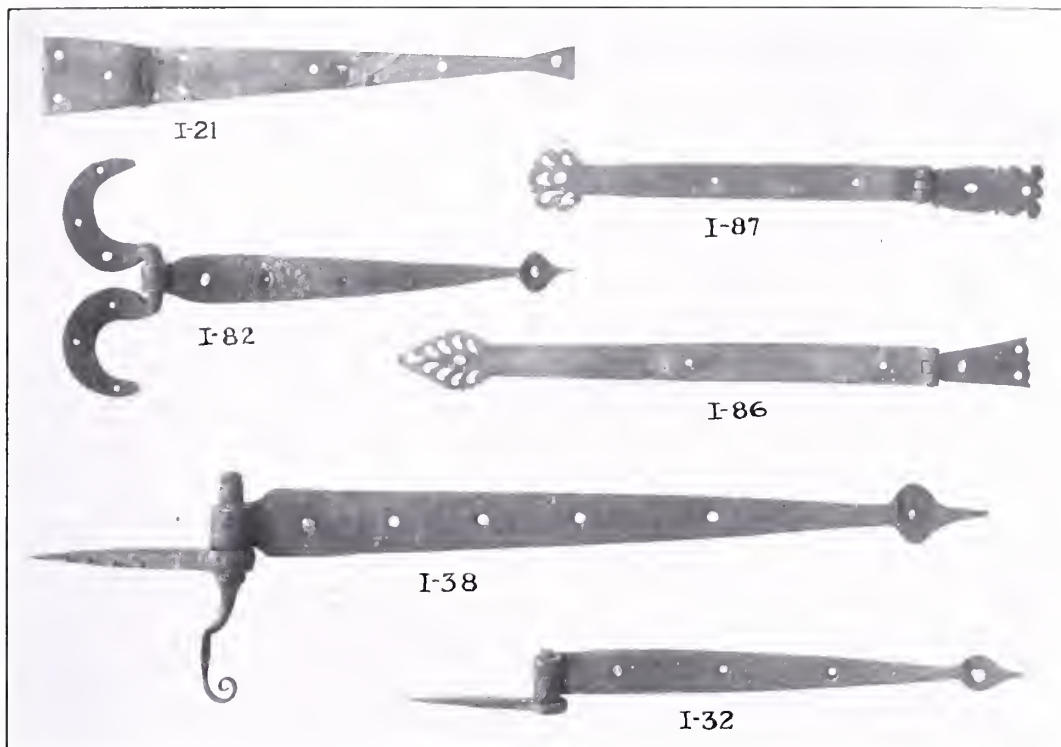
Special Hinges

ABOVE are shown over I-41 the usual door hinge of the seventeenth century which goes under the name strap and butterfly. It is very crude and quaint, and appropriate for all houses where the wood is left in the natural colors unfinished. I-42 and I-43 are variants of the same quaint early style. I-37 is often made in a very large size and has a good arrow head with a scrolled gudgeon and a screw thread, the pieces below being used, one on one side and two on the other, as washers, the smallest of the three being a hand-ornamented nut. This hinge is designed to be used where the gudgeon goes entirely through the jamb and is attached in plain view on the other side. I-34 is an offset hinge, used for large outside doors like the modern garages, or for any purpose where an offset is required. It is made with a machine-ground joint and is a nice piece of accurate work. The hinge I-35 is the commonest form of the strap hinge and goes back to an indefinite antiquity.

Types Not Shown

WE supply a great many articles of which no pictures are shown in this catalogue; for instance, the cotter pin or wire hinge used on chests and many special bolts, hinges, and other designs. We will make to order any wrought-iron house hardware from designs submitted or from our own designs. We are prepared to furnish the entire hardware for a seventeenth- or eighteenth-century house.

The object of showing the brass lock on a previous page was to provide something for an eighteenth-century house which was of a sufficiently ambitious character to demand brass on the principal rooms; in such houses the brass lock may be supplemented on the rear and upper rooms by the iron lock.



The Wallace Nutting Productions

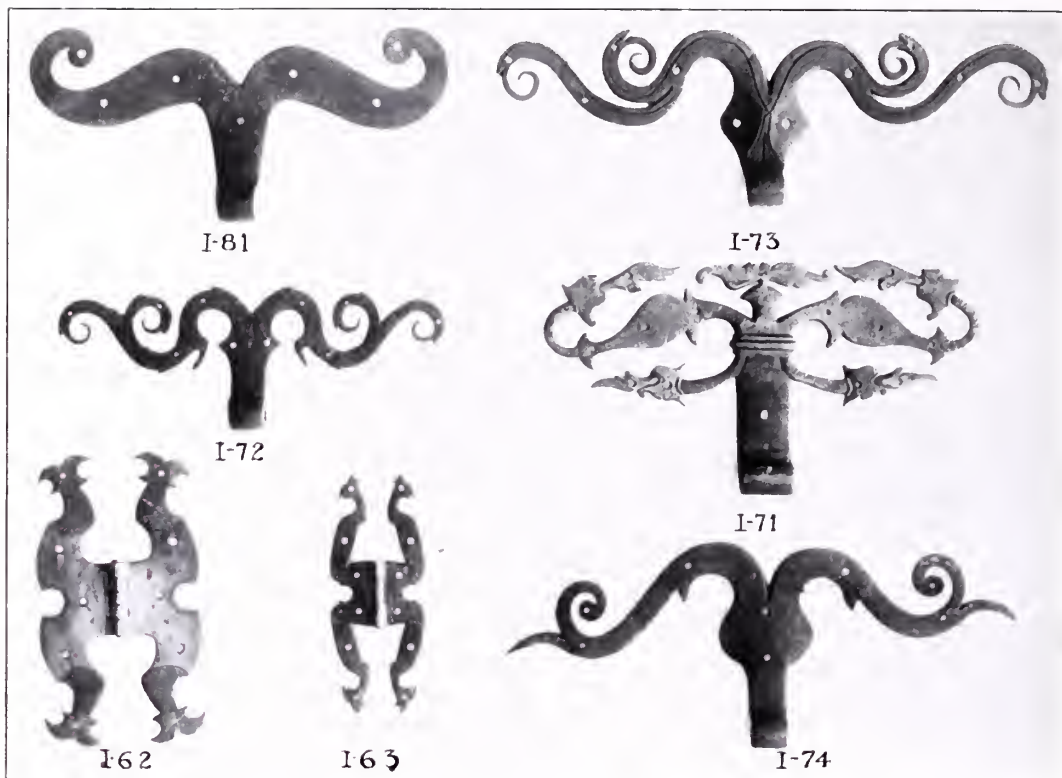
THESE are not confined to iron work, which is the smallest of the branches of our products. The object of entering into the ironwork was that it was impossible to find anywhere in America a good assortment of Colonial designs, correct in detail and with the early feeling. Mr. Nutting experienced difficulty in restoring old houses and finding the types required. He therefore proved that the making of such articles would supply a need.

Another branch of our business is the making of Windsor chairs, perfectly correct in type and in a greater variety of designs than any one made of the heyday of that style, or attempted.

To architects who make application, or prospective buyers, a special catalogue of these chairs will be supplied. We also make reproductions of quaint seventeenth-century furniture, and we have many pictures of such pieces but no catalogue as yet. Such pieces are in some cases carried in stock, if time permits their production, but in some cases they are made to order.

A third branch of our business is the well-known Wallace Nutting platinotype, which is the result of many journeys in many lands and in many states of our union, and comprises birches, blossoms, and streams, and many out-of-door subjects of the widest variety.

In showing old-fashioned interiors, Mr. Nutting has expended a great deal of time and trouble and has secured a unique and extensive variety of all good types of interiors from the time of the settlers to 1800. There are also many foreign themes, such as cathedrals, etc., mostly through western Europe.

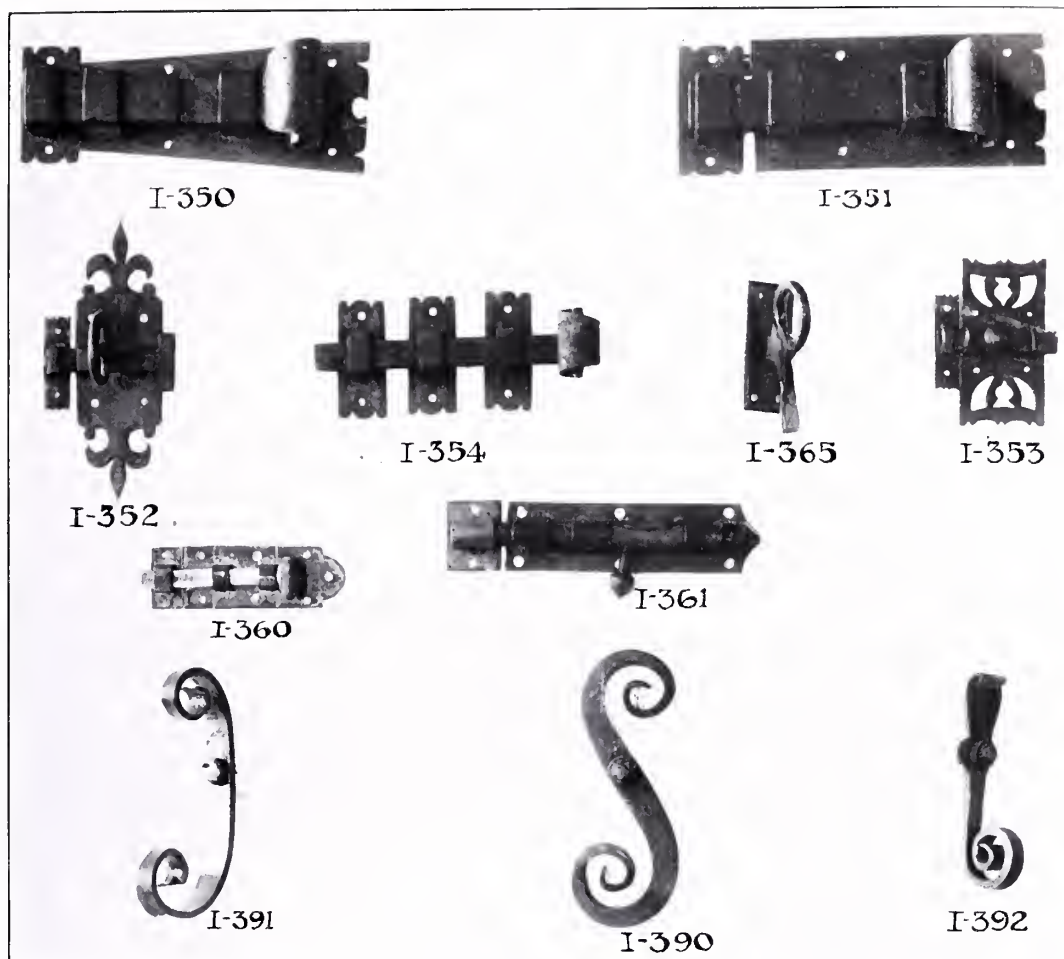


Renaissance Hinges

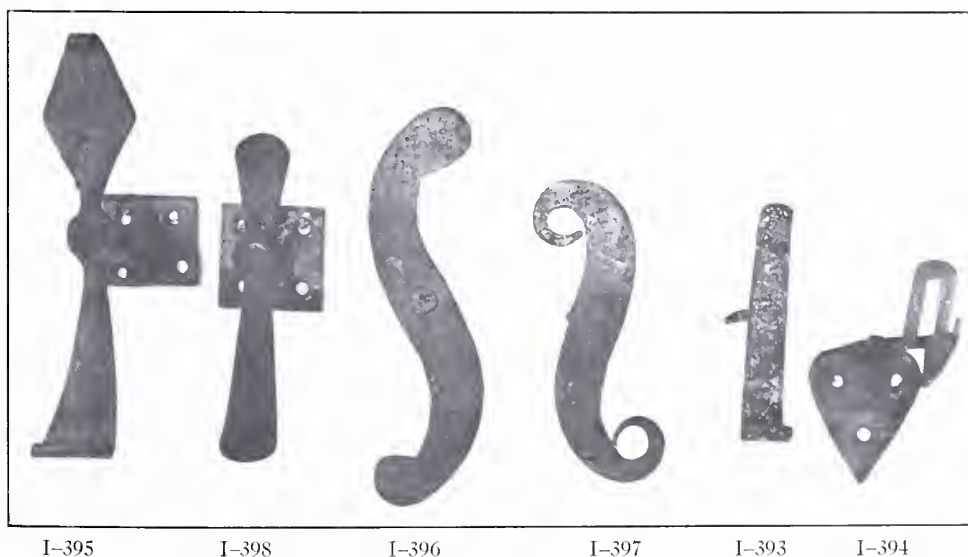
SOME of the above hinges have stolen into this book into company where they are not quite at home. The elaborate piece numbered I-73 has hardly a place here but was included as showing how some of the simpler forms were derived from it. I-62 and I-63 are variants from what is called the coxcomb hinge, which is very much used on cupboards. It is a piece that requires a good deal of care in manufacture. That on the left is heckled; that on the right is still quainter.

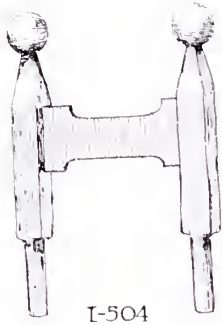
Fireplace Utensils

ON page 6 will be seen under No. I-460 a cut of skewers with a quaint skewer holder. The skewers were used by being inserted through the meat and through the spit rod to hold the meat in position. No. I-473 is a hook to be nailed through the beam and is accompanied by another several feet distant to support a drying pole in front of the fireplace on which were placed checked aprons and such articles as made a strong impress on childhood recollection. The forks, etc., on the opposite corner were called, when plain and heavy, tormentors with a suggestion of another world. They were used to take out the meat from the great pot. A smaller, daintier fork was used as a toaster. The little basket was used to roast an egg or a single chop and has a swivel joint which may be reversed so as to cook the contents evenly.

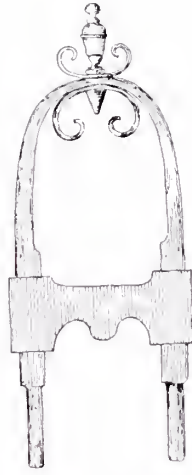


THE large bolts above are designed for outside doors; the smaller ones for cupboards. I-365 is a turn-buckle for a casement window. These did not have a striker but were turned into a depression in the wood, although of course they can be made with strikers. Three blind fasteners are shown above and six below.

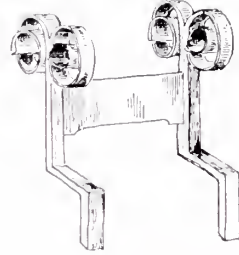




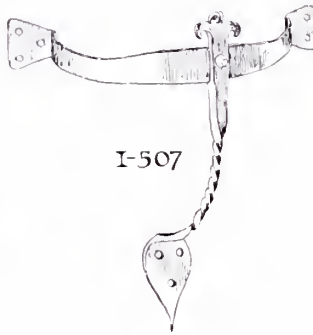
I-504



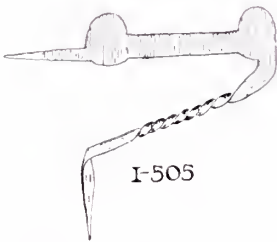
I-509



I-503



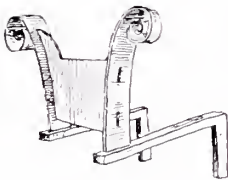
I-507



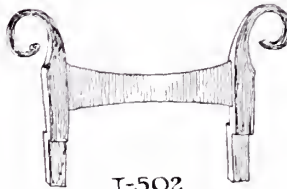
I-505



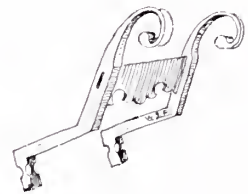
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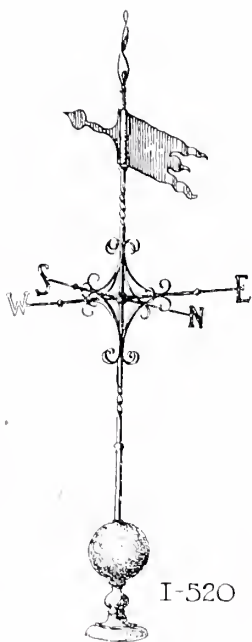
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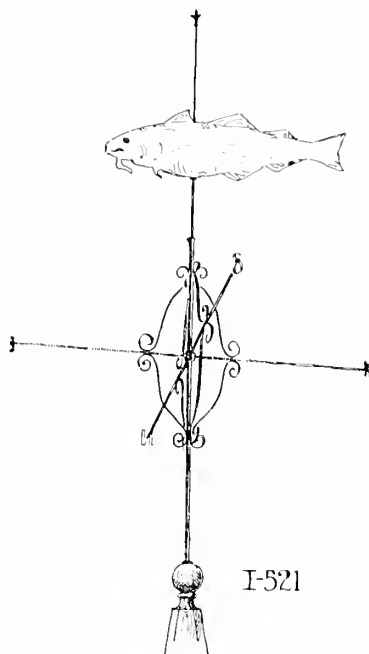
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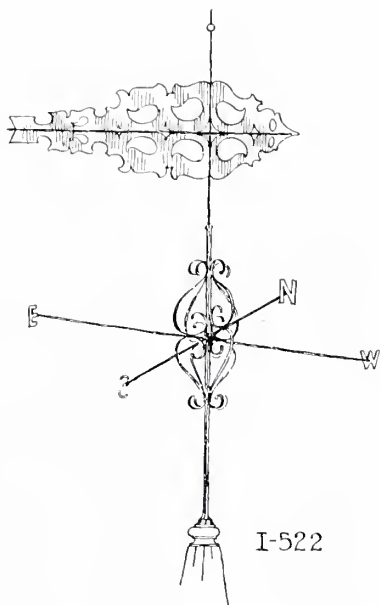
I-501



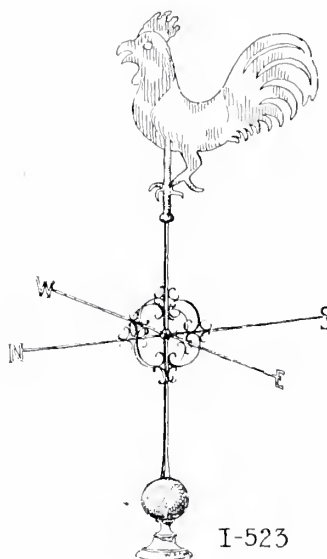
I-520



I-521



I-522



I-523

Seventeenth-Century Architecture

THE American type of seventeenth-century architecture was like that of England and retained many hints of the Gothic. The overhang which appears on the side of a dozen American houses is the rarest and the earliest type. Its origin was very simple, it being, of course, only a means of securing more room where houses were huddled in narrow side streets in Europe under the protection of the castle. The roof line here shown has been considered by many the most attractive to be seen anywhere in our country; the sweep of the chimney serving the lean-to and going up into the huge stack is very attractive. The finials on the house are copied from an ancient design and preserved to us.

The hardware of these houses was, of course, all wrought, with the exception perhaps of a pair of fire-dogs. In some instances where iron was scarce or an expert smith was not available, wooden hinges and latches were in use, as on the south side of the Hazen-Garrison house in Haverhill. Even the pins which attached such wooden gudgeons to the wall were sometimes wood, and the wooden hinge is a still rarer object of antiquarian search than the iron one.

On the Iron Works House below there is no doubt that every article, even to the kettle, was supplied by the builder. The making of wrought nails was an important feature of forge work, and great proficiency was attained by our ancestors in this work so that several hundred could be finished in a day. The outside doors were usually made double and were studded throughout with many nails. The fireplaces in the earliest houses did not have cranes but a lug-pole of wood or iron. Later the crane was adopted, owing to its convenience and "the saving of the face" of the housewife, as it could be swung out away from the heat of the fire. Besides the quaint hardware shown in this book, all the attachments for the homemade utensils of the farm were a part of the early smith's work. Thus he made hetchels for the flax, and the iron parts of the flax and woolen spinning wheels. It was necessary for him to iron the rude wagons of the day and to make the rings for the ox yokes. At that time charcoal was used almost exclusively for forge fire and formed an ideal substance for that purpose.

We find almost no attempts at elaborate ironwork in America. The museums seem to show us nothing of the kind. The wonderful productions of Italy, Spain, and Germany were not attempted, as they were beyond the needs of the simple settler. The age of chivalry had passed away and the modern-time machinery had not come in. Simplicity and strength mark the productions of our forefathers at the forge. At the Iron Works here in Saugus firebacks were cast, and in respect to these alone was there an attempt at artistic design. The subject of firebacks is a large one and has been treated at length. The fire room of the Iron Works House bears evidence that square-cornered firebacks in a series filled in nearly the entire rear of the fireplace, but those treasures have long since vanished, although it is our hope sometime to discover some made here.

The casting of kettles was an important feature of early ironwork, and happily we have many examples of them. There were also made articles somewhat resembling a modern soldering iron, which were called toddy sticks or loggerheads. The term "loggerhead" doubtless arose from the circumstance that the piece was the most convenient weapon of offense and defense. They had no artistic merit, but such articles are eagerly sought by the collector.

Other Publications of Wallace Nutting, Incorporated

WE publish a work on the Windsor chair distinct from our catalogue which shows about a hundred and twenty types photographed from old chairs and is the only work of the kind. Its price is \$1.50; we also publish a large picture catalogue of some thousand cuts which is loaned to the trade, and in response to many requests we are offering to sell it at \$2.50. We have in process of composition other works on the early architecture and the country landscapes of America.

The Iron Works House can be seen on application, and at our office in Saugus are many examples of hardware and furniture which we have copied.



